

we could use technology to bring applications and tools and programs to school districts that wouldn't have the skills or the opportunity to do it."

Esther Alegria, VP of manufacturing and general manager, Biogen-Idecs

"We could have gone anywhere," she said. "For me it's important that the state keep working, maintaining the workforce pipeline for us to maintain our business in North Carolina and for us to continue expanding in North Carolina."

Albert Eckel, Chair of NCBCE, Founding Partner, Eckel and Vaughan

"Many people believe it's almost divine intervention that North Carolina is going to keep going up, up, up and up," Eckel said. "We're stuck in a competition but many of us don't know we're in the playing field competing. If you speak to the Chinese and those in India – every day they know they are competing with us. Hopefully our leaders in north Carolina continue to understand that."

Brendan Moylan, Chief Operating Officer, Sports Endeavors

"It's critical that the citizens of North Carolina match the investments of the students of North Carolina on an individual basis and as a state we don't put obstacles in the way if people want to succeed," Moylan said. "If we don't maintain and build the backbone that exists here in North Carolina, not only will we lose the opportunity to bring new companies to North Carolina, but we'll lose the best and brightest kids that are graduating from North Carolina schools."

Jim Pridgen, Plant Manager, Bridgestone Americas

"One of the reasons we came to North Carolina was because of the educational system and the people in this state. I pray we don't go backwards. We must keep moving forwards."

Doug Warf, Senior Director of Marketing, Carolina Hurricanes

"My mom's a teacher. She's been one for 37 years. You know what a good teacher can do. When I got to go to 17 different schools locally you could see the difference an engaged teacher makes. When the teacher is active and engaged, that classroom is active and engaged. That to me is the part that's a little scary when you send that message we're shifting our focus, the ripple effect comes back to teachers and the teachers are the ones having a direct impact on students. If they're unsure about their future and their pension plans and everything else you're going to lose those people to other workforces in other states."

NCBCE is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit composed of business leaders from across the state. NCBCE, with almost three decades of support, input and advocacy for public schools, has been an important voice in the Office of the Governor for five administrations from both political parties.

NCBCE supports the delivery of knowledge in an effort to bring awareness of 21st century improvements to our schools and partnerships between education and businesses.

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